

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART OPENS NEW GALLERIES AND LIBRARY

On February 8, 1984, a three-story addition to The Cleveland Museum of Art opens to the public. Two floors are devoted to the Museum library, one of the leading art museum libraries in the United States. The top floor adds nine new galleries, which have been integrated with twelve adjacent galleries for a continuous, chronological installation of the Museum's fine collections of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century European and American art.

The new building serves the Museum's central purposes: to exhibit and to study the works of art in its care. It reaffirms the Museum's commitment to its responsibilities of scholarship and connoisseurship. Conceived by the trustees and staff as a necessary extension of the present building and activities, the addition has been designed by its architects to fit unobtrusively into the existing Museum.

It is the fourth building in the Museum complex. The original 1916 building remained substantially unchanged for four decades. An addition in 1958 nearly doubled the size of the building, and an Education Wing in 1971 added special exhibition galleries, lecture and recital halls, classrooms, and offices. The 1984 addition fits neatly between the two stairway towers of the 1958 wing.

The new building contains 33,650 square feet. Of that, 7,100 are gallery space, bringing the Museum's total exhibition area to 111,320 square feet,

(more)

2-new galleries and library

including 11,400 generally used for special exhibitions. All the rest is devoted to the Museum's growing permanent collections, which now number slightly more than 45,000 works of art.

Library space--19,400 square feet on two levels--is sufficient for at least the next quarter-century. The Museum estimates that each year it will add 4,500 books, 7,500 photographs, and 10,000 slides, since the library must add to its holdings with each addition to the Museum collection, archeological discovery, or significant study in the history of art.

The new library and galleries are made possible by gifts from many loyal members and friends of the Museum. A total of more than \$6.7 million was needed for the construction, interior finishing, renovation of conservation laboratories, and endowment to maintain the new facilities.

The addition was begun during the directorship of Sherman E. Lee and completed under the present director, Evan H. Turner. James H. Dempsey, Jr., is president of the Board of Trustees.

Detailed information about the library, the galleries, the building, and the capital campaign is provided in attached supplements.